



Fly-fishing the 51st state: The gorgeous Virgin Islands

By Don Oliver
Special to the Drum

My wife is the smartest person I know, bar none. In fact, she is smarter than the smartest and cutest 2-year-old grandson in the world, who is currently involved in a project figuring out how to put ketchup back into the bottle using only his hands. So when my wife suggested I fly-fish the 51st state, I thought I finally found something I knew more about than her.

Will I never learn? After her suggestion, I very diplomatically pointed out there were only 50 states. Her response: “Well, the United States Virgin Islands are part of the U.S., and should be added to your list of states to catch a fish on your fly rod.”

To further make her point, she told me English is their main language, they have all flavors of great food, and their currency is the American dollar. And just like in the 50, a dollar there will buy you 50 cents worth of goods. Then, to seal the deal, I was told there are lots of romantic beaches, and romantic beaches could lead to romance.

Like a trout taking a big dry fly, I took the bait.

On the flight over, I thought my 9-weight was going to get a workout. I’d assembled an assortment of saltwater flies and leaders. I had my flats boots, sun hat and gloves; I was ready. We flew into Saint Thomas and then took the water taxi to Saint John.

I was stoked. Saltwater fly-fishing and romance: It couldn’t get any better.

My first day fly-fishing around the beaches was great casting practice. I bumped a few needle fish, but nothing else.

I also found out I was breaking



the law. A large portion of Saint John is part of the National Park Service, and therefore fishing close to the swimming areas is illegal. I don’t know why; I never

A thought came to mind. Why hasn’t the person who invited the teeny-weeny-itsy-bitsy-bikini, worn by women who should wear them, been awarded a Nobel Prize? There just isn’t any justice in this world.

came close to hooking a swimmer.

The next day I hired a guide, and it was a lost day. I was feeling really low and thought, except for the romance, this has been a bust. Then my wife said, “You’re a retired guide. Man up. Go ask someone where to fly-fish on your own.”

I was directed to a flats area

north of our resort. The tide was high, and the wind howling, I thought there is no way it would work.

My wife scolded me, and I found myself wading the flats following the kamikaze pelicans. It was then I spotted fish feeding. Not just any old saltwater fish: tarpon.

As I made my way toward the pelicans and the fish, I heard — no small feat — fish feeding between me and the beach. I watched one of them begin to swim in my direction. I placed a clouser minnow in front of him, and begin to strip it. He looked at it, and then, to my surprise, ate it.

The fight was on. I’ve always heard about the thrill of your first tarpon, and it is greatly understated. The tarpon made several runs, got into my backing, and made the most spectacular tail walks I have ever seen. After doing this for about 15, minutes I began to wonder how I was going to land the fish. It could get ugly and dangerous.

At that point, he threw my fly. I was relieved and totally exhilarated.

So back at the resort sitting on my deck, relaxing, smoking a great cigar, drinking a cold beer, and watching the sun bathers on the beach, a thought came to mind. Why hasn’t the person who invited the teeny-weeny-itsy-bitsy-bikini, worn by women who should wear them, been awarded a Nobel Prize? There just isn’t any justice in this world.

I want to end with my traditional year-end closing. I wish everyone Feliz Navidad, Happy Chanukah, a good Eid as-Adha, and of course, Merry Christmas. If none of these fit your beliefs, then may whatever touches your heart with hope be with you all of 2012.

Express Your Opinions

A lack of decisive leadership
There is a complete absence of decision-making ability in the Tribal Council.

You must appreciate how serious it is. At this critical time, tribal leadership is in dangerously short supply.

The council has too many voices

in their heads other than their own. It is nearly as frustrating as the problems we have right now with the council virtually controlled by elements of the Growth Fund and tribal attorneys.

These elements have enormous power and play an outsized role in the tribal government.

Uncertainty is signaling the council is not reliable or trustworthy.

Finally, the Tribal Council has an indispensable role to play in tackling the long-term problems that imperil our tribal future.

Orville G. Hood
Tribal elder

EDITOR’S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE.
The Southern Ute Drum encourages letters from readers on any topic. We ask that letters be 500 words or less. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters should be submitted by email to astryker@southern-ute.nsn.us by the end of the day Monday preceding publication.

Happy birthday & merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our family and friends
(it would take the whole page to name you all)
We are thankful for you being a part of lives. May the Creator grant you happiness, love, peace and all that you need in your life for the next year.
Love always, Shelly and Zechariah

Happy Birthday to my lil sister Christen on Christmas Day!
I love you sissy!
Your big brother Ri Ri

Happy Birthday to my baby sissy on Christmas Day!
I love you bunches and bunches! Always remember that Auntie loves you lots!

Happy Birthday to my lil sister and Auntie Kate!
May you be blessed on your special day!
Love ya, Shells and Ri Ri

Tribal Membership
May you have the Merriest of Christmas’ and the Happiest of all New Years! Be safe and May the Creator walk by your side.
Shelly and Zechariah

To Abel Romero
How time flies it wasn’t long ago that we as a family were watching you play high school sports and then graduating, moving to Phoenix and living there for six years that’s awesome. Now I want to wish you a Happy Birthday on December 24th and a very Merry, Merry Christmas.
With Love Always, Your mom Luana Herrera

Happy Birthday on Dec. 24 to Abel Romero and many many more.
With Love, your sisters Elania Romero & Renelda Herrera

Happy Birthday Abel
From your Grandpa Bennett. Aunties, Becky and Gina. Uncles Keith, Frank and Shawn. All your nephews Cesar, Jawadin, Josh, Jalen, Staffon, Jesus and niece Brianna, and all your cousins.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
To my sister’s Becky and Gina, my brothers Frank, Keith and Shawn, my dad Bennett all my nephews, nieces and my grandchildren, my aunts, friends and relatives, may you all have a good year in 2012.
Luana Herrera

Tribal Obituaries

FROST - Jack McClure Frost, Sr., died Monday, December 12, 2011, at his home in Bayfield, Colo.
Jack was born June 19, 1937, to Andrew and Bertha Norris Frost at Taylor Hospital in Ignacio. He graduated from Ignacio High School in 1957. He was president of his class at Ignacio High School. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball, and received many trophies for his outstanding performance in all sports, including an award for All-State in his senior year. He then attended Adams State College for a year.
He worked for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in education and in the administration as one of the early pioneers in setting long-range goals and making presentations at general council meetings held in the Southern Ute Recreation building. He was a paralegal for the tribe. He later served as a mechanic and carpenter for the Southern Ute Tribe; he was basically a “jack of all trades.” He served as a Southern Ute Police Officer for many years and did a short stint as a Southern Ute Game Warden for the tribe.
Jack was a Southern Ute Tribal Elder and mentor. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, cheering on the Denver Broncos and spending time with friends. He also enjoyed riding horseback and tending to his family, cattle and sheep ranch. He also enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Sky Ute Casino.
He married Sherri Howell in April of 1960. The marriage ended in divorce in 1982.
He is preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Bertha Frost, his brothers Billy Frost, James Frost and Burke Frost, a son William S. Frost, daughters Andrea Richards and Suzette Frost, and granddaughter Jeanette Frost.
Jack is survived by daughter Jacqueline Frost of Ignacio; son Jack Frost, Jr. of Ignacio; son Andrew Frost of Arboles, Colo.; sister Kathleen Frost of Ignacio and brother Stanley Frost of Ignacio; step-children Delos Prairie Chief and Sherrie Prairie Chief of Ignacio; 20 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.
Visitation occurred at Hood Mortuary Chapel Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011. A Rosary was recited at St. Ignatius Catholic Church on Thursday evening. A wake followed the Rosary on Thursday evening in the Multipurpose Room of the Southern Ute Memorial Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. Deacon Larry Tucker & Father Doug Hunt will celebrate. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Visiting Angels, 125 E. 32nd Street, Suite 3, Durango, CO 81301.

**Dec. 30
Drum
DEADLINES**

**Display/Classified
Ads & Jobs
Dec. 23**

**Stories & News,
Announcements
Wishes/B-Days!
Dec. 23**

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Rolling Thunder Lanes
FALL BOWLING IS HERE!
Rolling Thunder Lanes Bowling Center!
at Sky Ute Casino Resort

Monday - Friday
all Students bowl for \$2.00
a game and \$1.00 shoes
from 11:00-4:00
Also All Seniors with a
Young at Heart card get
free shoes M-F from
11:00-4:00!

Monday night
"Date Night"
6:00-9:00p.m. Dinner for
two in the RTG, Steak and
Shrimp accompanied with
two games and shoes for
\$30.00

Tuesday night
"Guys Night"
\$2.50 a game, (shoes for
\$2.50) and with this receipt
25% off any burger on the
menu!

Wednesday Night
"Ladies Night Out"
\$2.50 a game, (shoes for
\$2.50) with this receipt 25%
off any appetizer or salad
on the menu!

Thursday Night
"Buddy Night"
From 4:00 too 11:00 for
every person who buys one
game gets the second
game free!

**Friday and
Saturday night**
"Cosmic Glow
Bowl"
From 9:30 to close on Friday
and on Saturday night from
8:00 p.m. to close, under
the black lights bowl with
the Red Pin and see if you
get the chance to Spin the
Wheel and win prizes and
SO MUCH MORE!

**Sunday Practice
Special**
11:00 to 4:00 p.m. \$10.00
(per person) all you can
bowl for up to two hours.
Five people maximum a
lane and shoes are included.

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Sunday "Report
Card Special"**
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from 11:00 to 4:00 if you
are a student with either a
valid Student I.D or a
current report card you can
get \$2.00 games!! (shoes
not included)

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